



LIFELINE OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Newsletter Spring/Summer 2014

La Casa Block party Outreach

May 2014

We just completed our first block party outreach of the year at La Casa Estates apartments here in Elkhart, IN. La Casa is a low income, high crime area. It's the kind of area that needs Jesus! That is what we did; shined the light of the Lord!

God moved in a great way, touching lives and connecting us with so many people to minister to. All praise to God! The Lord answered our prayers as the weather was absolutely marvelous, the rain stopped, the sun came out, and it all turned out superbly! All praise and glory to God!



Incredible turnout at La Casa Estates Apartments



Reaching out to our local community!



The Bounce House is always a favorite!

We estimate over two hundred neighborhood people attended the block party. It was really a blessing just loving on the people as they came to the event. The children were particularly blessed as they had a blast receiving balloons, getting their faces painted, and, of course, enjoying the bounce house.

Loving on people, showing Jesus in a tangible way, was and is our goal. Everyone who came to the event was greeted with a smile and made to feel special. As the people settled in and grabbed some food we sat down by them, greeted them, and talked to them sharing their importance to God. So many people commented how they could just feel the love of Christ at the block party. We witnessed, we shared the Gospel, and we testified to everyone we could. The team did an outstanding job.



Loving on the children



Feeding the Hungry



Praying for the needy



Loving the hurting

It was totally incredible having the whole Teen Challenge ministry out there with us. We just love all the team and for many of these guys it was their first time ever out evangelizing and witnessing on the streets. They all did a great job. Plus they brought out their praise band and ministered in song. They are so gifted! Several students were able to testify of their deliverance, giving glory to Jesus!



Tangibly showing the love of JESUS!



Jodi loving on a precious one



Some TC brothers grilling for Jesus



Teen Challenge Praise Band



Bro Eric sharing the Gospel

Bro. Eric Swanson, one of the TC staff, preached a word for the community that was anointed and spot on. God worked mightily ministering to the hearts as Eric shared the Gospel. It was an incredible day! All glory to Jesus!

We shout a huge “Thank you!” to all who gave of their time and finances toward this event. Thank you!



Reaching out to the youth



Free clothing - Blessing those in need

EVANGELISM CLASSES

In early April I had the awesome privilege of teaching six evangelism classes to the new students of Teen Challenge. These were one hour classes every Wednesday where we discussed topics like “The Great Commission”, “Just What is the Gospel?”, “Our Role in Evangelism & God’s Role in Evangelism.” We even took two whole classes and discussed Common Questions and Objections to Christianity.

I believe we all learned something. Having head knowledge is one thing, but real experience is something else. That is why after we completed the classes we scheduled three days of street ministry with these students.

We went right out into our outreach area in uptown Elkhart, La Casa Estates, to witness and share the love of Christ. We split up into teams and went door to door. We walked the streets and talked to everyone we could. We had an incredible time. Some of the TC students were actually upset that we had to stop.



ELKHART COUNTY JAIL TESTIMONY

God is moving and reaching men at the Elkhart County Jail. Many of these guys are getting that “wake-up call” - a dose of reality. Really, that is all the Lord is desiring; a hungering, repentant heart that calls out to Him. We are seeing that happen at the Elkhart Jail.

We are regularly seeing guys humbling themselves and call out to Jesus. It is a glorious thing. Below is a recent testimony from one of our meetings. Thank you for praying.

Recently, one the incarcerated guys stood up and asked if he could testify. We felt the Lord’s leading so we gave him time to share. This brother said how he actually started believing that God didn’t want him anymore and that he was destined to be forsaken by God. As his voice was quivering and tears were streaming down his face, he continued to share. The last thing he remembered telling his dad, who was a church leader, was that he didn’t even know if there was a God. He told us how he can still remember the shock and utter pain and hurt that he seen on his dad’s face as he broke his heart.

He said as he has been locked up a few months now. He has started reading his Bible and praying, and he has seen where God doesn’t abandon us like old trash and refuse. He went on to say that he now sees how God is calling him to have a real relationship with Him as his Father. He said he now realizes that God loves him and wants to be his closest friend. Amen!

Praise God! This is why I love Jail ministry. This is why I love ministering and reaching out!

In my simple thinking, I wonder if this brother, who months ago was a God mocker and doubter, would have ever come to know Jesus in an intimate way had it not been for him being locked up and put in a place where he had nothing but to seek the one he was missing. Who knows??? It’s a moot point now, because he found Him. Hallelujah!!

I guess the moral of this little testimony is, “Don’t give up on People.” God certainly hasn’t given up us. Pray! Believe God to reach them. If you have a lost prodigal son or daughter, trust the Lord to draw them back and reach them. Nothing is impossible with Him.

I wish somehow I could be there when this fellow who was testifying reunites with his dad and shares with him how he loves Jesus and knows Him. Can you imagine the tears of joy, the smiles, the embracing, and the rejoicing? My son who was lost is now found...amen!



Lifeline goes into the Elkhart County Jail every Thursday evening- conducting Gospel meetings

INMATE BAPTISM'S (Glory to God!)

Recently I had the privilege to attend and celebrate with nine brothers who had just been water baptized. What a thrill to witness!

These brothers are correctional inmates from South Bend Re-entry Facility, a facility that we at Lifeline have been going in to minister a Gospel meeting since February of this year. It has been going great! We have started building relationships with many of these guys with the hopes of connecting when they get out. It certainly was an honor to be there as they stepped out in obedience to publicly declare their faith in the one and only Savior of the world Jesus Christ. Amen.

Please keep these men in prayer. Most of them will be entering back into society within the next several months.



GOOD FRIDAY CHAPEL

I totally love hanging out at the Teen Challenge Center here in Elkhart, and it is especially good to help with a Chapel Service which is what we did this last Good Friday. Hanging out with the guys, fellowshipping, ministering, and of course eating some pizza together made for a great evening. Here's a big shout out to the director of Teen Challenge, Andy Collins, and all the staff of North Central Indiana Teen Challenge. You guys are doing a great work of discipleship and we are seeing the fruit. Keep it up. Amen!



Blessing the guys with a pizza meal

Our good friends, Lance and Leigh Prathaftakis, were with us for the service. They have an awesome love for the Lord and an extreme passion for souls. Leigh ministered in song and Lance brought a word straight from his heart. The Lord moved in a mighty way as several guys came forward for prayer during the altar service.

Another awesome thing about this evening was having the band, Out of the Dust, with us. They lead the service in praise and worship. I totally love these brothers' heart, and their passion for Jesus. They have a great sound, and these brothers are gifted and talented.



Bro. Lance sharing the Word



Altar Prayers

WHAT'S THE GOAL?



Ministry Commentary

By: Steve Ignowski

"Only God has the ability to change a life!"

In ministry it is imperative that we keep our eye on the prize. Jesus is our perfect example. The word says, "...For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame..." Jesus endured; He set the example for us to follow. He kept His eyes on the prize, the prize being the will of the Father. Our desire should be the same, to do God's will.

We need to remember that our goal is not that we change people. As much as I desire to see people change, I don't have the power to transform people. Only God does, as they yield their wills to Him. Believe me, I love seeing people come out of sin, selfishness and addictions. Amen! Of course, I do, but seeing that result is not the goal. It's an awesome side benefit that we occasionally see, but it's not the aim or the target.

The ministry God has given you and me is just a tool, a tool at His disposal and many times we will not see the results. In fact, many times what we see might only be described as "discouraging" because, sadly, a lot of what we see is people walking away, giving up, and quitting.

We need to remember that in the simplest terms you and I are just the delivery boys or girls. We should do our best as God's servants with the gifts and talents that He has given us to love, share, speak and deliver the heart of Christ. Ultimately, though, we are not God, and we don't see all that God is doing in a person's heart and life, and we certainly do not know the timing of how God is working things out.

Let's save ourselves a little pain and remember we have our part, and God has His part. Amen!

He came to seek and save that which is lost. Our part is to share the good news, to live the love of Christ, and do our best to win people to Jesus. We may not see all the results of our efforts, but the real question to ask ourselves is, "Are we doing what He is telling us to do?" That right there is the goal!

BARNABAS PROJECT

Since the beginning of the year I have been involved with a mentoring program through Teen Challenge called The Barnabas Project. The goal of this project is to connect Godly men with students, to encourage them, to build a relationship with them and be a positive role model in their life.

Many of the students who are in the Teen Challenge program do not have any Godly male role models in their lives. Sadly, many have been abandoned by their earthly fathers and left to a single mother doing her best to provide and raise her family. Many of these young men have never had an older guy just look at them and tell them, "You can do it! You have potential! You are important and special to God."

I am currently mentoring two students named, Arik and Chad. Both are young guys (20 & 22 yrs. old). Both have been raised without a male role model. Both have had trouble with the law and past addictions to drugs, but glory to God, both these young guys have reached out to Jesus, and God is using the Teen Challenge program to bring change and stability to their lives.

You can simply sum of The Barnabas Project in one two words - relationship and encouragement. These young brothers just need to be affirmed and to see that they are valuable. These guys are better than street thugs, gang bangers, or drug dealers. These guys have great value to the Lord, so much so that Jesus died for them. I see these guys as warriors for Christ. I see them as this generation's evangelists and prophets ready to reach out and impact the world around them. I say do it Lord! Use these young brothers! Amen. This is the Barnabas Project.



One of our popular places to hangout is the Star Bucks loft in Martins- just talking and drinking some good coffee.

FOLLOW-UP & ACCOUNTABILITY

Follow up and accountability... These are two vital areas in a new believer's life that need great attention, especially if they are entering back into everyday society after years of incarceration.

In March of this year, Frankie Phillips and I took a road trip down to Warsaw, IN to do some follow up and accountability with Al McDonald, a brother we both got to know from the South Bend Re-entry Ministry. Al had just finished his five years of incarceration and now was free, so he headed back home to Warsaw. Al was a regular attendee at our ministry meetings and showed a great love for the Lord.

Al was so thankful and overjoyed that Frankie and I would drive down to see him. We picked him up and took him to breakfast. We also got to connect with some new friends I met on Facebook, Pastor William Whitaker and his son. He Pastors a Church in Warsaw.

We all had a great time of fellowship. We literally had "church" right there in the restaurant. Al shared how things were going plus some of the struggles he was having. We offered some counsel to Al along with prayers. We all encouraged one another; we testified, prayed, and preached to one another...plus we had some good eats! Ha! It was an awesome day.

Please keep Al McDonald in your prayers. The enemy would love to draw him back into compromise, selfishness and sin.



We had great time reconnecting with Al (front right) in Warsaw.

REACHING BEYOND OURSELVES

The thrust of Lifeline is to reach out to the “un-reachables” And most all of whom we reach out to are people who are incapable of getting themselves out of their mental, physical, and emotional poverty. Many of these people have lost hope and have given up on life, but no matter what problem they face, we know Jesus is bigger!

In this ministry, we have seen God transform and change lives. We have seen drug users and alcoholics set free. We have seen marriages restored to Jesus. We see broken hearts renewed and restored. We have seen prodigals come home and backsliders repent and get right with the Lord. How does this happen?

We go to the people. We reach them right where they are. Jesus was the perfect example. He went to the needy, the hurting, and the broken-hearted. These are the ones who are on the bad side of town. They are the ones in addiction centers, in Juvenile Centers, and the ones incarcerated. Deep down they know there is a better way. They just don’t know how. This is why we go to them.

1 Corinthians 15:46 explains it this way: "...the spiritual is not first, but the natural and afterward the spiritual." We cannot try to be spiritual to people who are not born again and expect them to understand and walk in it. First, we must show love and compassion, meet their natural needs, and then introduce them to the things of God.

This is why we reach out with free food, clothing, and free Christmas Boxes, blessing the children. All this is in an effort to show love in a tangible way. Jesus said, "What you've done to the least of these, you've done it unto me" (Matthew 25:39).

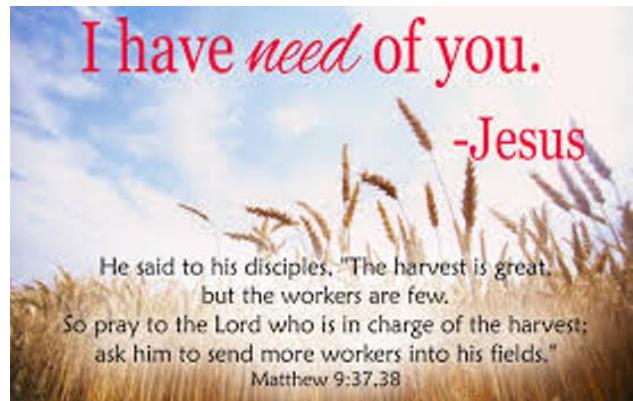
The people we minister to can only give of their love and gratitude. All of our financial support must come from outside resources. This is where we need you. By partnering with Lifeline Outreach Ministries, you help restore hope and set the captive free.

We so appreciate your prayers and intercession for these outreaches

If anyone would desire to sow a financial seed toward these soul winning outreaches, please send your tax deductible check to:

Lifeline Outreach Ministries
23060 Scottswood Ct.
Elkhart, IN 46514

We are a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization
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**EVERY THURSDAY- SOUTH BEND RE-ENTRY
EVERY THURSDAY- ELKHART COUNTY JAIL**



**JUNE 14th = ELKHART, MAIN ST.
JULY 19th = DUNLAP
SEPT. 6th = SOUTH BEND RE-ENTRY
OCT. 31st = OUTREACH
DEC. 5th = CHRISTMAS CHAPEL (TC)
DEC. 13TH = CHRISTMAS BOX OUTREACH**